

# THE WHITE HOUSE

OUTGOING MESSAGE



WHSA

**OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE**  
PRECEDENCE

CLASSIFICATION

**21 SEPT 1962**  
DATE

FROM:

TO: **CAPT. SHEPHERD EYES ONLY FOR THE PRESIDENT**

INFO:

CITE: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--21 SEPTEMBER 1962**

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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--21 SEPTEMBER 1962

1. ARGENTINA:

A. EARLY THIS MORNING, THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN BUENOS AIRES <sup>had reportedly</sup> ~~SUDDENLY~~ TURNED IN FAVOR OF GENERAL ONGANIA AND HIS "LEGALIST" FOLLOWERS AT CAMPO DE MAYO.

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2. CUBA:

A. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, A US TUG REPORTED SIGHTING A CUBA-BOUND RUSSIAN CONVOY, ESCORTED BY TWO SUBMARINES, AT A POINT ABOUT 700 MILES EAST OF HAVANA. A CHECK BY ONE OF OUR NAVY AIRCRAFT VERIFIED THE PRESENCE OF FIVE SOVIET MERCHANTMEN IN THE AREA, BUT SAW NO SUBMARINES. THE NAVY HAS LAID ON A SURFACE SEARCH FOR TODAY.

B. [REDACTED] MOSCOW'S CANVASS OF ITS MILITARY FORCES FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE IN CUBA. THIS ACTIVITY IS PUZZLING; WE HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE. [REDACTED]

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C. THE MOVE MAY BE PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE: TO REPLACE PERSONNEL WHO HAD BEEN SUDDENLY ORDERED THERE WITH OTHERS PREPARED TO STAY FOR SOME TIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT COULD MEAN ANOTHER SIZEABLE INCREMENT TO SOVIET PERSONNEL IN CUBA OR A BELIEF IN MOSCOW THAT ITS PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO BE ENGAGED IN COMBAT. WE ARE TRYING TO GET A BETTER ANSWER.

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D. RED STAR THIS MORNING CARRIES AN ARTICLE ATTACKING THE SENATE RESOLUTION ON CUBA. SOVIET MISSILE SUBMARINES, IT SAID, ARE READY TO PUT TO SEA IF TENSION IN THE CARIBBEAN CONTINUES TO RISE.

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F. IN CONAKRY, OUR AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD ON MONDAY THAT GUINEAN OFFICIALS, SOMEWHAT DISENCHANTED WITH THEIR CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR, ARE PRESENTLY DISINCLINED TO GRANT MOSCOW LANDING RIGHTS FOR AIRCRAFT HEADED FOR HAVANA.

### 3. CONGO:

A. THE UN PLAN FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION HAS BOGGED DOWN IN A MORASS OF LEGALISTIC ARGUMENT OVER HOW MUCH PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY OUGHT TO BE WRITTEN INTO THE CONSTITUTION.

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B. WE DO NOT HAVE A <sup>full</sup> ~~clear~~ PICTURE OF WHAT IS GOING ON  
IN SOUTH KASAI AND NORTHERN KATANGA [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] LEOPOLDVILLE IS GETTING READY TO MAKE  
A MOVE AGAINST TSHOMBE'S FORCES IN THOSE PROVINCES IF IT  
HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

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C. A UNITED NATIONS C-47 WAS SHOT DOWN OVER NORTHERN  
KATANGA YESTERDAY. NO ONE IS QUITE SURE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE,

[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
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4. THAILAND:

A. SARIT TOLD THE PRESS YESTERDAY THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR THAILAND TO BEGIN WORKING OUT FORMAL TRADE AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH THE USSR.

B. WE TAKE THIS AS THE FIRST MOVE TO GIVE BODY TO RECENT THAI THREATS TO ADOPT A MORE INDEPENDENT POLICY BECAUSE OF THEIR PIQUE OVER US POLICY TOWARDS LAOS AND CAMBODIA. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT SARIT WAS CAREFUL TO LEAVE HIMSELF AN ESCAPE HATCH BY SAYING THAT NOTHING DEFINITE WOULD BE DONE UNTIL FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT RETURNS FROM HIS CURRENT CHORES AT THE UN.

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D. [REDACTED] THANAT TOLD AMBASSADOR YOUNG ON TUESDAY IN BLUNT LANGUAGE THAT THE US NEED NOT EXPECT THE SAME THAI SUPPORT IN THE UN AS IT HAS RECEIVED IN THE PAST.

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5. SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS:

A. WE CANNOT CONFIRM PRESS REPORTS THAT PEIPING HAS ASKED THE USSR TO CLOSE ALL OF ITS CONSULATES IN CHINA. THERE IS, NONETHELESS, TENUOUS EVIDENCE SUGGESTING THAT MOSCOW'S POSTS AT HARBIN IN MANCHURIA AND URUMCHI IN SINKIANG MAY IN FACT HAVE BEEN CLOSED. [REDACTED]

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B. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE COMING TO BELIEVE THAT A NEW PERIOD OF OPEN HOSTILITY BETWEEN THE TWO POWERS HAS ARRIVED. ALBANIA HAS CHIMED IN BY ENDORSING EVERYTHING THE CHINESE HAVE HAD TO SAY ABOUT SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RAPPROCHEMENT, AND BY ATTACKING KHRUSHCHEV PERSONALLY AS WELL. 50X1

6. COMMUNIST CHINA-JAPAN:

A. [REDACTED] A JAPANESE FIRM IS NEGOTIATING WITH COMMUNIST CHINA FOR THE IMPORTATION OF 50,000 TONS OF IRON ORE FROM HAINAN ISLAND NEXT YEAR. [REDACTED] 50X1

B. [REDACTED] WE CAN SEE HOW PEIPING MIGHT BE ATTRACTED TO THE DEAL. FOR ONE THING, IT WOULD EARN BADLY NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE. FOR ANOTHER, IT COULD LEAD TO THE REFURBISHING OF HAINAN'S ANTIQUATED MINING COMPLEX WITH JAPANESE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, THUS MAKING AVAILABLE TO CHINA SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER QUANTITIES OF THE RICHEST IRON ORE IN THE WORLD (OVER 70% METAL CONTENT).

C. THERE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY POLITICAL OBSTACLES TO AN AGREEMENT. AS RECENTLY AS WEDNESDAY, CHEN YI WAS TELLING VISITING JAPANESE NEWSMEN THAT A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TRADE AGREEMENT IS STILL OUT OF THE QUESTION, BUT THAT PRIVATE DEALS WERE QUITE IN ORDER.

7. SINO-INDIAN BORDER:

PEIPING IS CLAIMING THIS MORNING THAT A FIRE FIGHT IS IN PROGRESS AT THE EASTERN END OF THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER IN WHICH CHINESE FORCES HAVE SUFFERED CASUALTIES. THE SITUATION, IT SAYS,

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HAS REACHED THE CRITICAL POINT AT WHICH THE "FLAMES OF WAR  
MAY FLARE UP." ALL THE FACTS ARE NOT YET IN HAND, BUT THE  
TONE OF THE CHINESE BLAST IS SHRILLER THAN USUAL.

8. NOTES:

A. SOUTH VIETNAM:

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B. INDONESIA: A CABINET SHAKE-UP SEEMS TO BE IN THE MAKING, THE HIGHLIGHT OF WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE SUBANDRIO'S ELEVATION TO THE POSITION OF FIRST MINISTER IN REWARD FOR HIS ROLE IN THE WEST NEW GUINEA SETTLEMENT.

C. AFGHANISTAN: THE AFGHANS HAVE ASKED US TO MAKE AVAILABLE TRAINING SLOTS DURING THE NEXT ACADEMIC PERIOD FOR TEN OF THEIR ARMY OFFICERS. THIS REQUEST, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN NEARLY THREE YEARS, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT THE PERSONAL APPROVAL OF PRIME MINISTER DAUD.

D. SOMALI-ETHIOPIA: RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, NEVER VERY GOOD, HAVE BEEN BROUGHT CLOSE TO THE BREAKING POINT BY SOMALI SUSPICIONS THAT THE ETHIOPIANS ARE PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE / <sup>THEIR</sup> PRESIDENT.

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USSR:

E. /THERE WAS APPARENTLY ANOTHER NUCLEAR TEST AT NOVAYA ZEMLYA THIS MORNING.

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~~TOP SECRET~~

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